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TENBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1952

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1952

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<i>Name of Parishes.</i>					<i>Councillors.</i>
BAYTON	...	...	...	...	E. EVANS.
BOCKLETON		...	...	...	MISS PRESCOTT.
EASTHAM	..	...	...	...	K. D. BRIGGS.
HANLEY	...	...	...	...	P. KERBY.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME			...	...	REV. A. P. RANDLE. J. BATLEY.
KYRE	...	...	...	...	REV. J. K. H. THOMAS.
LINDRIDGE	...	...	...	...	COL. E. G. WALLACE. C. H. C. PARTRIDGE.
MAMBLE	...	...	...	...	B. DAVIES.
PENSAX	...	...	...	...	W. G. ABRAHAM.
ROCHFORD	...	...	...	...	W. G. MAUND (Chairman)
STANFORD WITH ORLETON				...	H. MORRIS.
STOCKTON	...	...	...	...	CAPT. A. ASTLEY JONES
STOKE BLISS		...	...	...	A. LAWRENCE.
TENBURY	...	...	...	...	J. E. BUFTON. COL. T. C. FILLERY. J. J. FOSTER. H. JONES. W. MIDDLETON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B. B.Ch., D.P.H.
SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR, WATERWORKS ENGINEER	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1952.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid 1952								5,330
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952	...	...	...					1,755
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,365
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£74 2 10

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and it is entirely rural in character, except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

During the autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop-pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total 1952	Total 1951
Legitimate	37	37	74	77
Illegitimate	1	1	2	4
Total	38	38	76	81
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			14.3	14.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.3	15.5

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	0	2	2	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)			25.6	61.7

DEATHS

	23	28	51	74
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			9.6	13.5
Death Rate for England and Wales ...			11.3	12.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY under one year of age :

0	1	1	2
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	13.2	24.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.5	0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	27.6	29.6
	Total 1952	Total 1951
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

Reference No.		Male	Female
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	2	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	2
16.	Diabetes	0	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	6	7
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	0	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	4	6
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	4	1
23.	Pneumonia	0	2
24.	Bronchitis	4	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	1	1
		23	28

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Building Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the area.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority." The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester undertakes the examination of producer samples of food, milk and water. The remaining bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is chiefly used but accommodation is also available at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available and for Maternity cases accommodation is provided in three Maternity Hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester. There are sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstans, Malvern.

The Local Health Authority is responsible for prevention and after-care and the administration is undertaken by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre, i.e. Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of this service is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Regular samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken and have proved satisfactory on analysis. The quantity is variable and requires to be augmented at times from the Elan Aqueduct.

The water is not plumbo solvent, but has an aggressive action on zinc and wrought iron, requiring the use of lead or copper piping. (See full report by Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer).

Many of the wells and springs and small private piped supplies have proved unsatisfactory on analysis. The consumers are advised what action to take according to the individual circumstances.

The Council's water scheme prepared under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, has made no progress whatsoever during the year.

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains

Parish.	No. of houses supplied from Stand-pipe Taps.	No. of houses supplied direct from Mains.
TENBURY	Nil	648
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	Nil	Nil
LINDRIDGE	Nil	Nil
MAMBLE	Nil	Nil
PENSAX	Nil	Nil
BAYTON	Nil	Nil
STOCKTON	Nil	Nil
STANFORD	Nil	Nil
EASTHAM	Nil	Nil
HANLEY	Nil	Nil
ROCHFORD	Nil	Nil
KYRE	Nil	Nil
STOKE BLISS	Nil	Nil
BOCKLETON	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1. Tenbury Town

The conditions described in my last report still remain unchanged. A scheme for the provision of new sewers and outfall works has not yet been received and considered by the Council—a most unsatisfactory position for a town of this size.

2. Rural District

There is little change to report apart from the preparation of schemes to serve houses to be erected at Newnham Bridge and Rochford.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury which receive untreated sewage from the town.

SCHOOLS

A limited amount of re-decoration has been undertaken during the year, and some improvements to sanitary facilities at Kyre. It is regretted that improvements in the facilities at Bayton and Eastham have not yet been effected.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the early part of the year six council houses were completed at Woodgates Green. Work was commenced on the construction of sixteen council houses at Newnham Bridge. Three houses were completed by private enterprise.

There were many applicants for council houses in the district on 31st December.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supply.
 2. Meat and other foods.
- See report of Sanitary Inspector.

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases :

					Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	Nil	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis			...	...	1	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	Nil	Nil

The case of Poliomyelitis made a complete recovery.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to the schools.

Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses	...	...	55
Number of children over 5 who received Primary Courses	...	...	10
Number of children who received Reinforcing doses	...	...	73
No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.			

TUBERCULOSIS

No case was notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952

NEW CASES.							DEATHS.					
Age Period	Pulmonary		...	Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
5	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
10	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
15	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
25	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
35	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
45	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
55	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	1	...	0	0
65	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
<hr/>												
	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	1	...	0	0

No action was necessary, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
12	10	4	6

CONCLUSION

The Council's progress with the erection of houses remains disappointing and it is hoped that schemes now under discussion will proceed more rapidly.

The provision of an adequate system of sewers and outfall works in the town of Tenbury should be undertaken without further delay. The Council's scheme proposed under Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.
I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1952.

WATER

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations.

A connection between the Birmingham Water Conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase and decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

In the rural parts of the district, the mode of supply, generally, is by wells and springs. There are a few private piped supplies.

TENBURY WATERWORKS

During the year it was necessary to use the supplementary supply from the Birmingham Conduit.

MAINS IMPROVEMENTS

Church Street, Cross Street, and Bromyard Road

With the object of improving supplies to the upper parts of Berrington Road, Oldwood and in the Crescent and Crescent Place areas, a new 5 inch and 4 inch main was laid from Church Street to the junction of Bromyard Road with the Crescent. The old distribution mains serving Berrington Road, Oldwood and the Crescent and Crescent Place were disconnected from the old main and connected to the new. The work commenced in August and was completed by the middle of October.

TENBURY TOWN WATER—ANALYSES

A copy of a sample taken for bacteriological examination during the year is as follows :

3rd November, 1952.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days.

37°C	Nil per 100 ml.
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Probable number faecal coli	Nil per 100 ml.
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A chemical analysis of a sample taken during the year is as follows :

Physical Characters

					Clear
Odour	...	...	...	...	None
Deposit	...	...	...	...	Very Slight; White. pH 6.6.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	Slight Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	15
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	...	13
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.6
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	3
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	...	6
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	9
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.18
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.013
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None Detected

WATER SUPPLIES TO NEW COUNCIL HOUSES

Rochford

Early in the year, a new 105 ft. borehole sunk in connection with proposed six houses at Rochford was found to have a yield of 400 gallons per hour. The water was of good quality and fit for drinking and it is worthy of note that the water was found to be soft and alkaline in character.

Mamble

A borehole 175 ft. sunk at Mamble for eight proposed Council Houses gave more than 400 gallons of water per hour. The bore was pumped daily for several weeks.

WATER—PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Thirteen samples of water were taken from private supplies during the year. A number were found to be defective in quality and in these cases appropriate action was taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is still a large number of pail closets in the built-up area of Tenbury. Most of the pail closets are situated at long distances from the houses they serve and from existing drains and water supplies. Also, a large number of the existing pail closets structures are dilapidated and incapable of being re-used. In not less than 50 cases new structures would be necessary before conversion could be carried out.

Sixteen houses are under Clearance Orders, whilst several others, by normal standards, may soon be regarded as unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost. A few properties would be difficult, if not impossible to deal with owing to distance from, or levels in relation to sewers.

The provision of a new sewerage system in the town of Tenbury, together with outfall works is a matter of some urgency. In this connection, instructions have been passed to Consulting Engineers.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Collections are made once every three weeks in the rural parishes of the district. In the township of Tenbury, a collection is made weekly. Refuse is disposed of by tipping into an old gravel quarry at Kyrewood, situated about one mile from the town. The scheme works fairly satisfactorily.

HOUSING—COUNCIL HOUSES

During the year 28 new Council Houses were completed on sites as follows :

Woodgates Green, Knighton-on-Teme	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hostel Flats, Bromyard Road, Tenbury (Conversions)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Crescent Place, Tenbury	..	...	...	...	...	2
Newnham Bridge, Knighton-on-Teme	..	...	...	...	...	10

At the end of the year, the Council had 193 occupied houses. At Newnham Bridge a further 6 houses were under construction and nearing completion, whilst at Mamble preparations were being made for the erection of a further 8 houses and at Rochford another 6.

Investigations were made during December in the Orleton district for a water supply.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

During the year 24 Applications for permission to develop were dealt with. Of these, 17 applications were approved, 4 refused and 2 were not proceeded with.

An Appeal to the Minister against the Council's refusal to permit the erection of a garage at Clows Top was heard. The Minister allowed the Appeal to the extent that he permitted the development for a period of three years from the 18th August, 1953, subject to the condition that the building be removed at the expiry of the permitted period.

PLANS APPROVED (Town and Country Planning Act and Building Byelaws)

New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Improvements to Existing Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING (Defence Regulation 56a)

16 Building Licences were issued by my department during the year, covering works in the district to the value of £14,049 5s. 0d.

12 Licences were issued directly by the Ministry of Works in respect of building operations in the district covering work to the value of £7,184.

1. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	171
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	230
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation			Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	24

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	23
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :			
(a) By owners	...	...	5
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (Housing only)
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—informal ... 23
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority ... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4 Overcrowding :

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Not known
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
- Court proceedings under Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936 ... 1

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A rodent operator, who also acted as a general assistant in my department, was engaged in June of this year. A systematic survey of premises throughout the district for rat infestations was commenced and the following is a summary of work done by the end of the year :

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri- cultural Premises.	All other including Business Premises.
Number of properties inspected during the year ...	8	49	230	10
Number of properties (Major) infested by rats	1	—	5	—
(Minor)	1	—	93	4
Number of properties seriously infested by mice ...	—	—	—	—
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	2	11	—	3
Number of Notices served under Section 4 ...	—	—	76	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—

One "Block Control" scheme was carried out.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH

HOUSE DRAINAGE, ETC. (EXCLUDING NEW HOUSES)

New Drainage provided :

(a) To sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) To cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number trapped, ventilated or repaired	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks, urinals dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of additional W.C.s installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defects to sewers remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive accumulations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances arising from dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances arising from defective cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits in connection with Tenbury water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	412
Visits in connection with private water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Letters during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	543

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the year :

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
(2) By the County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

FOOD

During the year inspections were made of food—preparing premises, and where necessary, attention was called to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and to the byelaws relating to the clean handling of food.

464 lbs. of meat and 168 lbs. of other foods were found to be unfit for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Since early in the war, meat has been supplied to the district from a central abattoir at Kidderminster. During the intervening years the private slaughter houses in the district have been used for emergency slaughter only.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

There is nothing unusual to report under this heading. A few minor defects or deficiencies were found in connection with pickers' quarters and appropriate action taken.

Dr. Donaldson of the Ministry of Health visited the hop fields early in the season.

It is anticipated that all the large hop farms will be equipped with hop-picking machinery by next season.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officers and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer..

